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Cy 4 or 5

10 May 1956

MEMORANDUM TO: PROJECT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

SUBJECT : Survival Kits


1. Recently I made an informal inspection of certain survival equipment which will be made available to project pilots. In all cases the handguns available were the semi-automatic type. The semi-automatic weapons do serve a good purpose particularly with regard to small self-protective weapons which should be easily concealed. However, for survival purposes, i. e., living off the land, the small caliber repeating revolvers are considered to be more reliable, practical and trouble free under field conditions. In the case of .22 caliber revolvers, a range of ammunition from small BB caps (.22 cal.) (excellent for taking small game) through high velocity soft nose long rifle cartridges (suitable for self-defense or taking large game) may be used with the rapid fire feature of a revolver. Should one attempt to use ammunition other than long rifle in the .22 cal. automatic pistol, each round would have to be loaded on a single shot basis.

2. It is recommended:

a. In addition to the weapons presently available for issue with the survival kits, a .22 cal. revolver such as one of the current S and W or H and R models, should be made available. Barrel length should be no more than 4½ inches.

b. A variety of .22 cal. ammunition, including BB caps, shorts and high velocity long rifle cartridges should be made available.

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Colonel, USAF
Deputy Director of Operations

MCM/aem

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